

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 22, 2008. Claims 7 to 18 are now pending in the application, with Claims 1, 5 and 6 having been canceled and new Claims 7 to 18 having been added. Claims 7, 11 and 15 are the independent claims herein. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for an informality. Claims 1, 5 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,882,334 (Meyer). In view of the cancellation of Claims 1, 5 and 6, each of the foregoing rejections are believed to be obviated. Nonetheless, as will be discussed below, the currently pending claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record.

The present invention concerns determining whether a communication apparatus and a controlled device are connected to the same predetermined transmission medium. In the invention, a communication apparatus transmits a request for inquiring whether a device having an obtained IP address is connected to a predetermined transmission medium, where the communication apparatus is directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium. Depending on whether or not a response is received, a determination is made whether or not the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected to the same transmission medium. If no response is received, warning information is displayed on a display unit.

Referring specifically to the claims, newly-added independent Claim 7 is directed to a communication apparatus capable of connecting to a network including a plurality of transmission media and capable of controlling a controlled device having a

predetermined function, comprising a device detecting unit that (a) detects the controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to the network, and (b) obtains an IP address of the controlled device, a communication unit that transmits a request for inquiring whether a device having the obtained IP address is connected to a predetermined transmission medium, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, and a determining unit that (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request is received, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium, if the response corresponding to the request is not received, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium.

Claims 11 and 15 are method and computer medium claims, respectively, that substantially correspond to Claim 7.

The art of record is not seen to teach the features of Claims 7, 11 and 15, and in particular, is not seen to teach at least the features of a communication apparatus having a communication unit that transmits a request for inquiring whether a device having the obtained IP address is connected to a predetermined transmission medium, the communication apparatus being directly connected to the predetermined transmission medium, and a determining unit that (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the predetermined transmission medium, if a

response corresponding to the request is received, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium, if the response corresponding to the request is not received, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium.

Meyer is seen to disclose to detect a transmission error in a communication system (RF, IR) between a PC 16 and a keyboard 40 (e.g., columns 3-4). In this system, the PC receives data from the keyboard and then transmits a response thereto to the keyboard. However, Meyer does not disclose or suggest detecting a controlled device among a plurality of devices connected to a network to obtain an IP address of the controlled device, and transmitting a request for inquiring whether a device having the obtained IP address is connected to a predetermined transmission medium to which the communication apparatus is directly connected, as clearly recited in the new independent claims 7, 11 and 15. Moreover, Meyer is not seen to teach the features of a determining unit that (a) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via the predetermined transmission medium, if a response corresponding to the request is received, and (b) determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device are connected via a transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium, if the response corresponding to the request is not received, wherein the communication apparatus displays warning information if the determining unit determines that the communication apparatus and the controlled device

are connected via the transmission medium different from the predetermined transmission medium.

In view of the foregoing deficiencies of the art of record, Claim 7 to 18 are believed to be allowable.

No other matters having been raised, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Edward Kmett/

Edward A. Kmett
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 42,746

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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